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HAPPY HOUSE

The Care Bear Cousins' Mystery Adventure

by Sonia Black Woods

illustrated by Bobbi Barto

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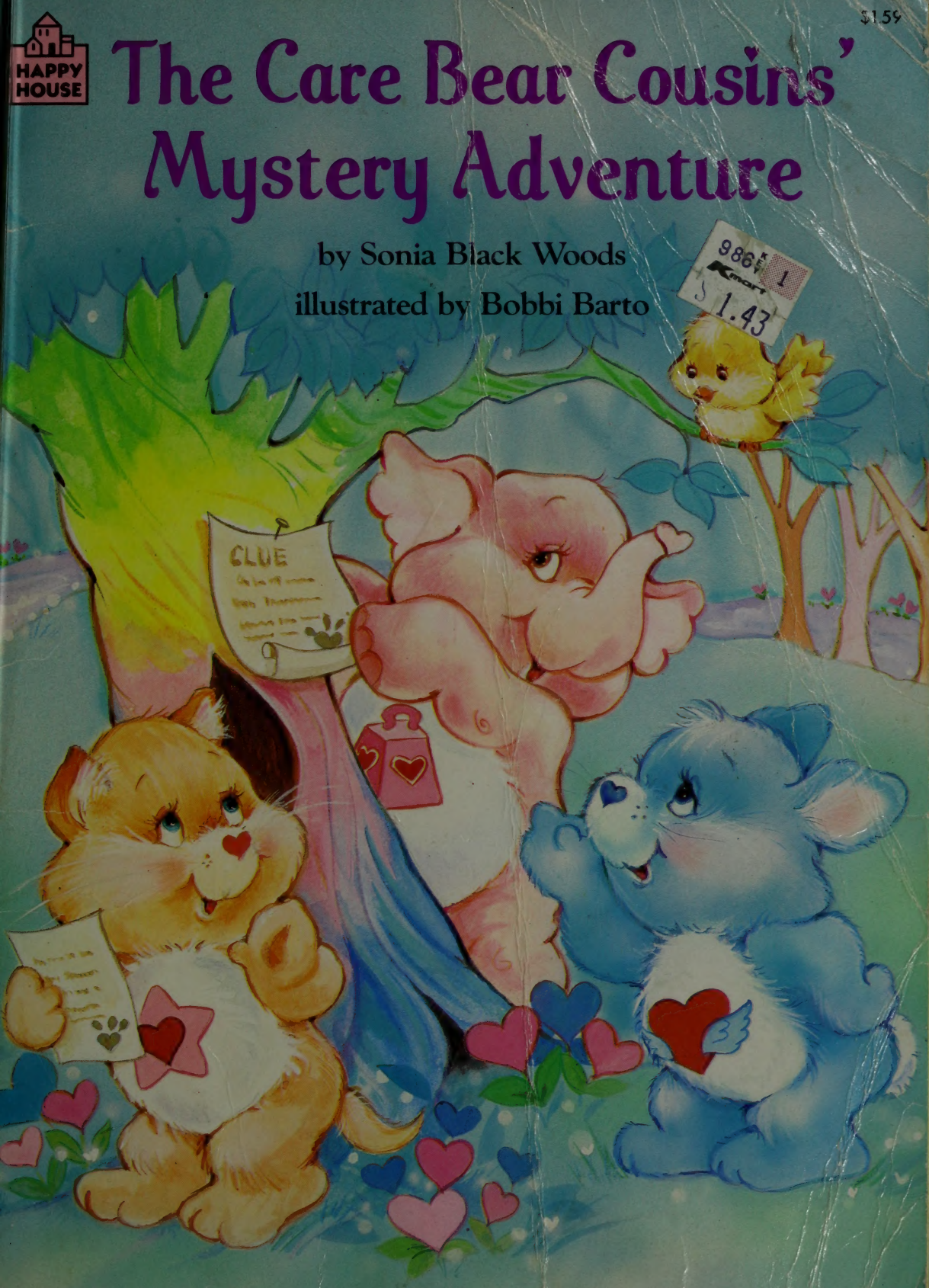

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HAPPY HOUSE BOOKS
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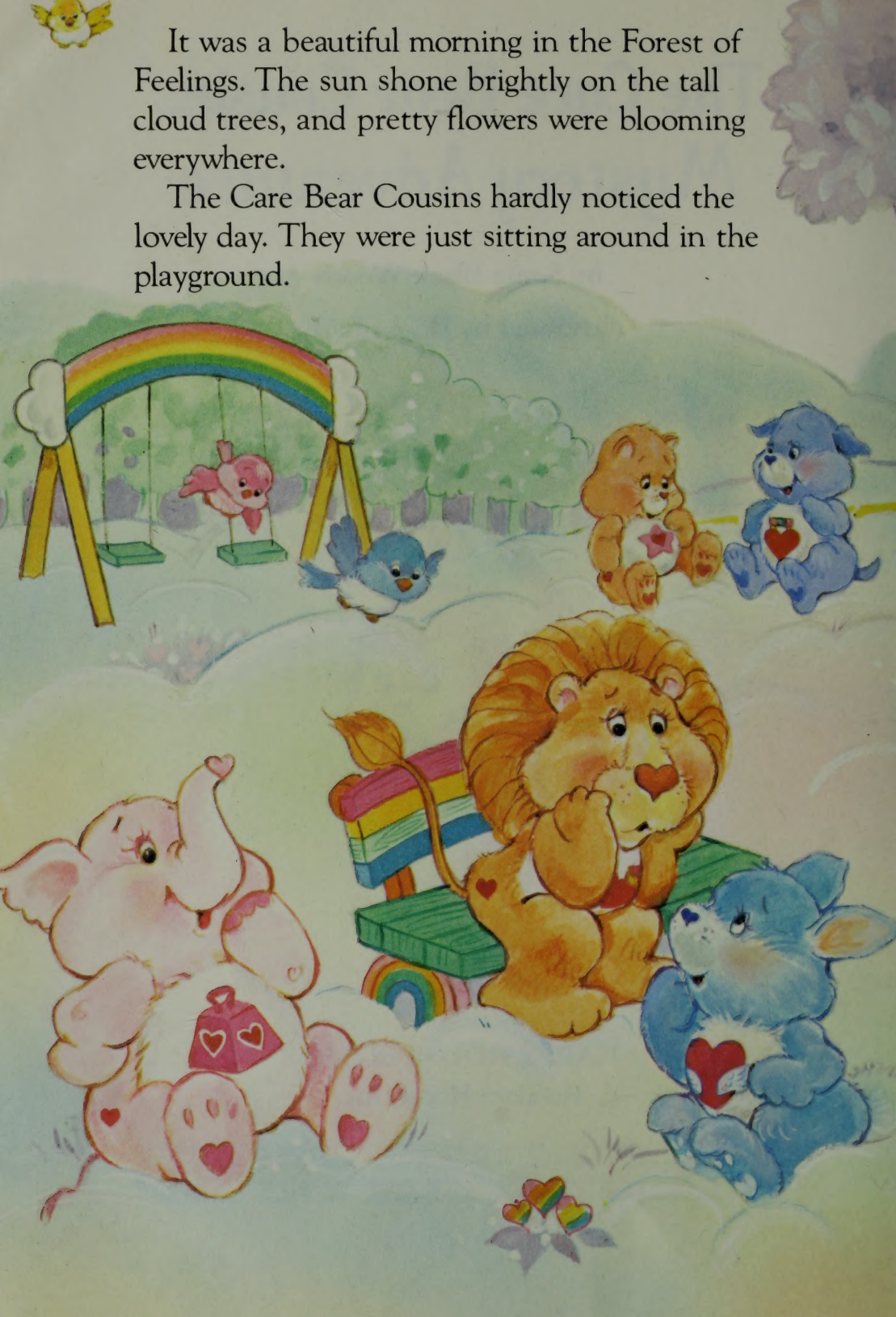
It was a beautiful morning in the Forest of Feelings. The sun shone brightly on the tall cloud trees, and pretty flowers were blooming everywhere.

The Care Bear Cousins hardly noticed the lovely day. They were just sitting around in the playground.



"What's the matter with everyone?" asked Playful Heart Monkey as he swung down from his cloud tree.

"There's nothing new to do!" answered Gentle Heart Lamb.

"Let's see what we can think of," said Treat Heart Pig.

"I know," said Brave Heart Lion. "Let's play follow the leader."

"But we just played that yesterday!" Proud Heart Cat answered.

"How about a game of tug of war?" asked Lotsa Heart Elephant.

"No," said Loyal Heart Dog. "Your team always wins!"

"Let's have a race, then," Swift Heart Rabbit suggested.

"Everyone knows you're the fastest runner!" Bright Heart Raccoon replied.

Suddenly Playful Heart Monkey said, "I've got a great idea! Wait here, everyone. I need to get something from the hideaway cave. I'll be right back!"

The Cousins waited and waited. But Playful Heart Monkey didn't return.

"I wonder what's taking him so long," said Gentle Heart Lamb. "Maybe something's wrong."

"We'd better go look for him," said Brave Heart Lion.

The Cousins raced to the cave with Swift Heart Rabbit running ahead of the others.

When they got to the cave, they ran inside and called, "Playful Heart Monkey, where are you?" But the only answer was the echo of their own voices.

"Something strange is going on," whispered Gentle Heart Lamb.

"Look!" said Loyal Heart Dog. "He left a note." Sure enough, there was a message from Playful Heart Monkey.

The message said "Meet me at the forget-me-not spot."

But where was the forget-me-not spot? The Cousins were puzzled.

"Maybe he meant the meadow," said Bright Heart Raccoon. "Forget-me-nots always grow there."

"That's it!" said Brave Heart Lion. "That's where we'll find Playful Heart Monkey."

At the meadow there were lots of blue forget-me-nots and daisies but no Playful Heart Monkey! The Cousins were worried. What could have happened to him?

In a mossy clearing a colony of ants was marching up an ant hill. "Look!" Bright Heart Raccoon said. "The ants are forming letters!" It was another message from Playful Heart Monkey.

The letters spelled "Gone Fishing."

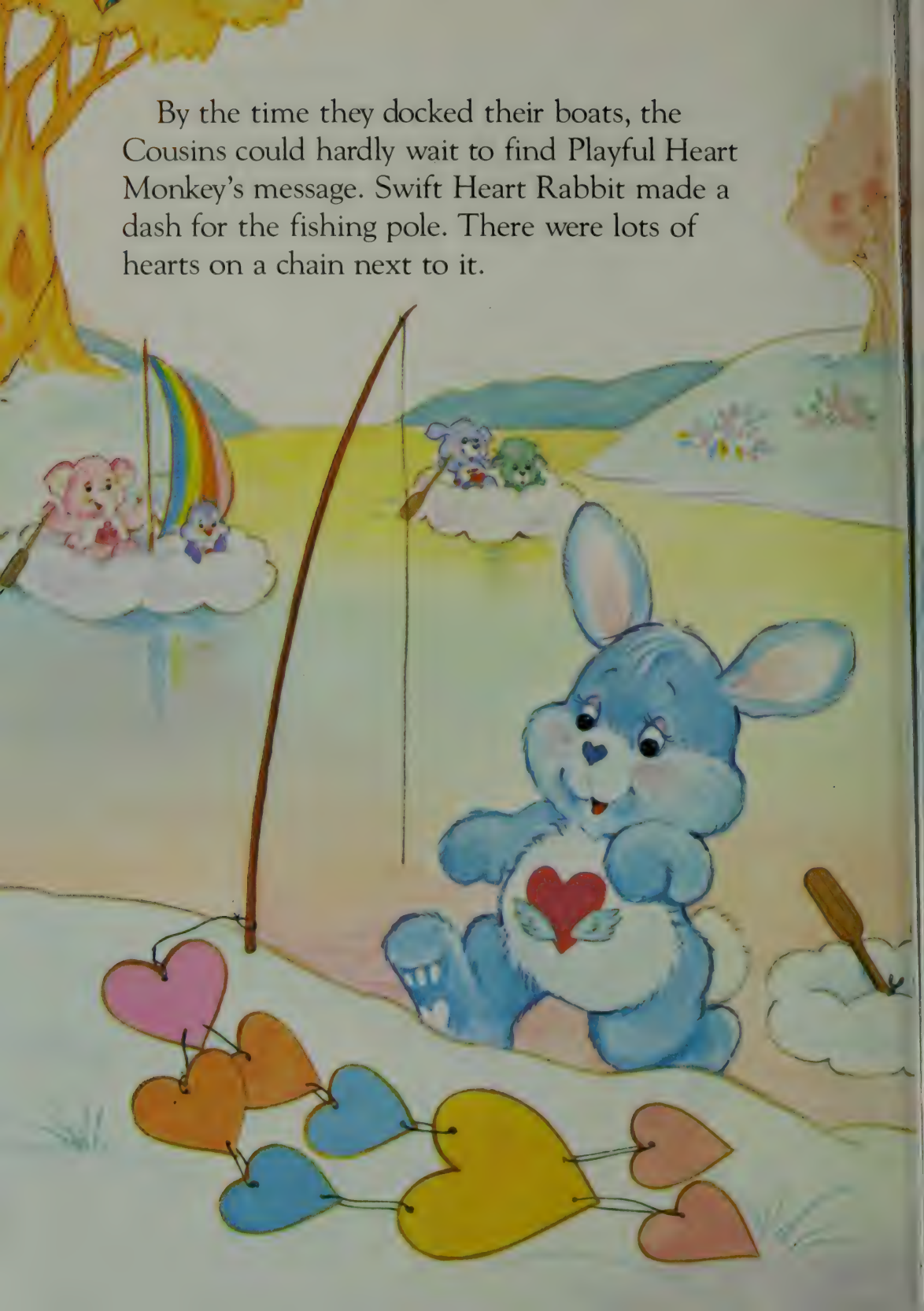
GONE FISHING

"He must be at Rainbow Lake!" said Bright Heart Raccoon. "That's where we always fish for hearts!"

"Let's go," said Brave Heart Lion. They all rushed down to the lake, but Playful Heart Monkey was nowhere in sight. The Cousins searched for him behind the rocks, up in the trees, inside the rowboats, and under the bushes.

"Look!" Lotsa Heart Elephant shouted suddenly. "There's Playful Heart Monkey's fishing pole across the lake. Let's go!" The Cousins hopped into their boats and headed for the opposite shore.

By the time they docked their boats, the Cousins could hardly wait to find Playful Heart Monkey's message. Swift Heart Rabbit made a dash for the fishing pole. There were lots of hearts on a chain next to it.



When the Cousins spread out the hearts, they saw another message from Playful Heart Monkey. It said "Look for me in the tallest cloud tree."

"Does anyone know where the tallest cloud tree is?" asked Cozy Heart Penguin.

"Not exactly," said Gentle Heart Lamb.

"But the tallest trees grow somewhere near Rainbow Hill."

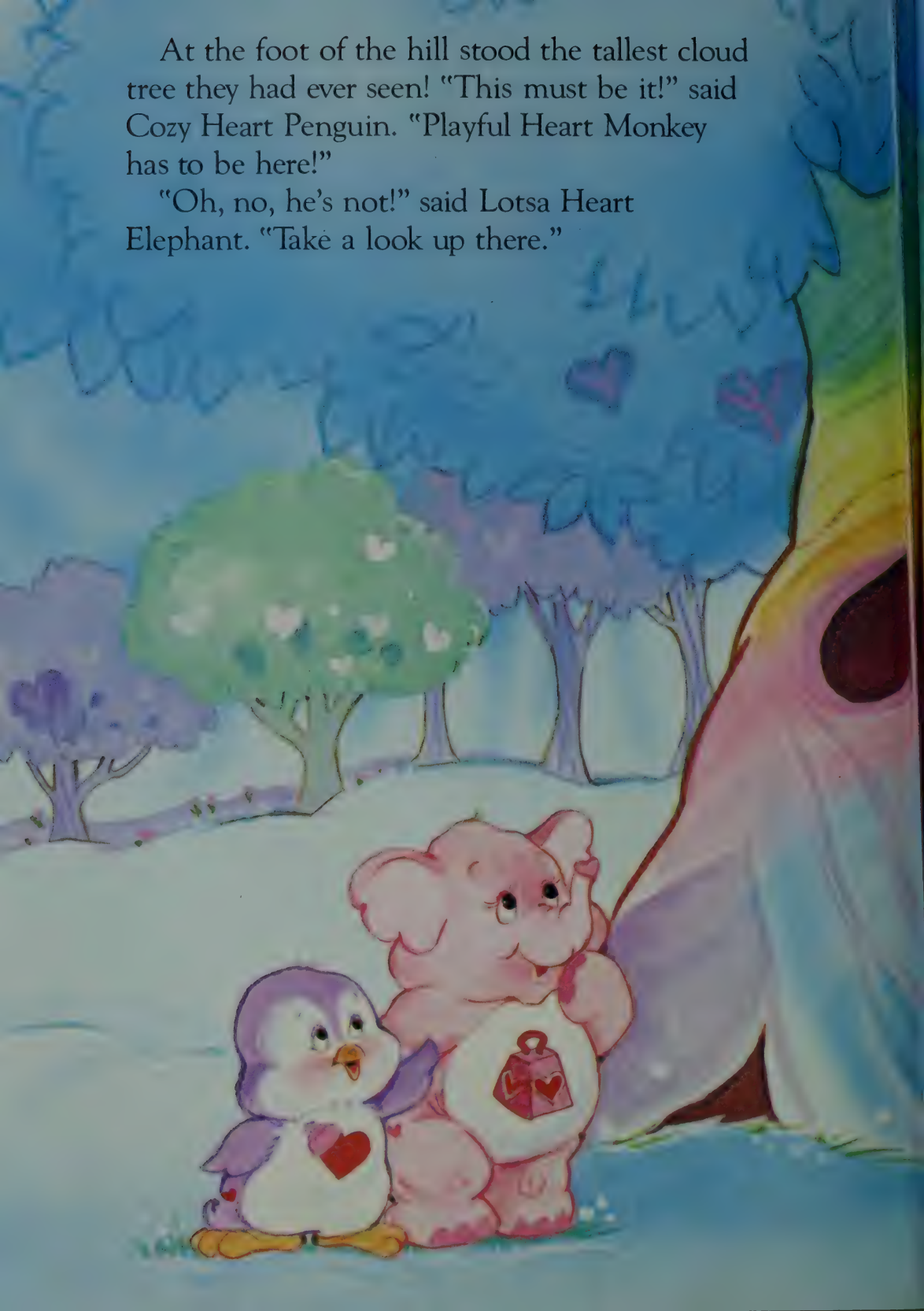
The Cousins went to look for the tallest cloud tree, skipping through fields of flowers and playing hide-and-seek with their butterfly friends.

When they came to Rainbow Hill, they climbed up, up to the very top. Then they rolled down the other side, laughing all the way.

A big surprise waited for them below.

At the foot of the hill stood the tallest cloud tree they had ever seen! "This must be it!" said Cozy Heart Penguin. "Playful Heart Monkey has to be here!"

"Oh, no, he's not!" said Lotsa Heart Elephant. "Take a look up there."



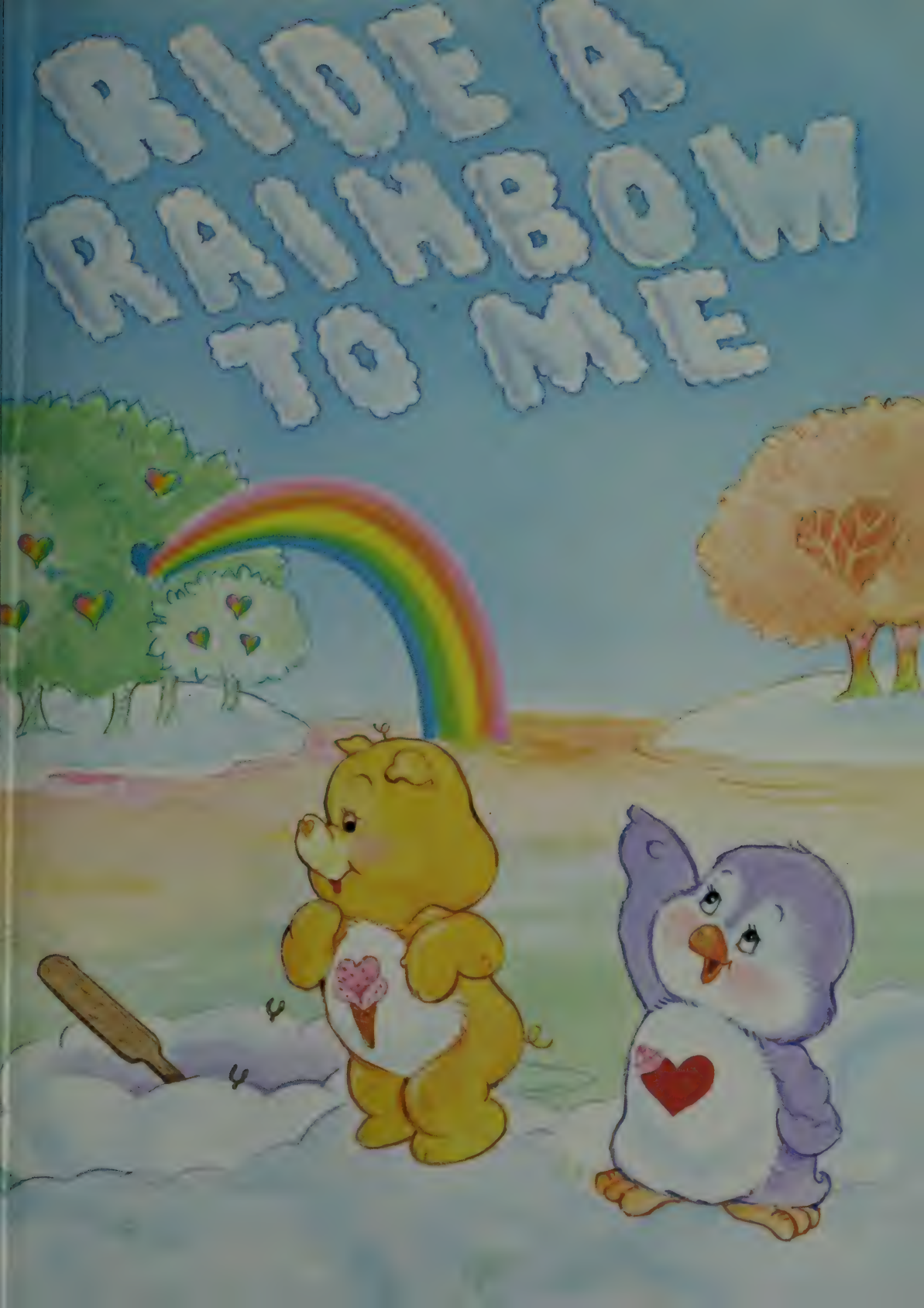
Way up in the tree, birds of all colors were gaily chirping. Some of them were holding a banner with a new message from Playful Heart Monkey: "Catch me across the river."

The Cousins scurried to Rainbow River.

"Let's go downstream first," said Treat Heart Pig. "At least we'll pass some blueberry bushes. I wouldn't mind having a little snack."

But before they could even climb into their boats, Cozy Heart Penguin spotted a message written in puffs of white clouds in the sky across the river. It said "Ride a rainbow to me."

RIDE A RAINBOW TO ME



"Don't you think we should pick a few blueberries first?" asked Treat Heart Pig. But the others were too excited to slow down now! They hopped onto the nearest rainbow and slid merrily along.

"Look!" said Proud Heart Cat. "I don't believe my eyes!" In the distance the Cousins saw the playground. And this time Playful Heart Monkey was there!

"How did you like your mystery adventure?" asked Playful Heart Monkey gleefully.

"It was lots of fun," said the Cousins.

Playful Heart Monkey laughed. "I tricked all of you into having a fine time, didn't I?"

"That's right," said Treat Heart Pig. "But now it's time to eat lunch." And that's just what the Cousins did!

Come along with the Care Bear Cousins
on their fun-filled day!

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